

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 5, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (5,813,009).

Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, and 12-15 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 2-4 depended from claim 1, and have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1. Claims 2-4 as amended are believed to be allowable.

Claims 6-8 depended from claim 5, and have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claims 6-8 as amended are believed to be allowable.

Claim 10 depended from claim 9, and has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9. Claim 10 as amended is believed to be allowable.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 12 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 13 and 15 are believed to be allowable based on the allowability of their respective base claims.

Appl. No. 10/066,405
Am dt. sent October 5, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2005

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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